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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,881	01/20/2004	Chih-Wei Huang	67,200-1225	3162

7590 10/13/2006

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EXAMINER

KACKAR, RAM N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1763

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of 1-16 in the reply filed on 1/13/2006 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 1-2, 6, 9-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Park et al (US 6464794).**

Park et al disclose an insert ring (edge ring Fig 2-24) of silicon (Col 5 lines 42-45) with an annular step encircling a wafer support in a plasma-processing chamber. The insert ring is surrounded by a shadow ring (28).

4. **Claims 1-2, 6, 9-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kanno et al (US 20030029572).**

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Kanno et al disclose an as insert ring (focus ring Fig 8-32) of silicon (Paragraph 60) with an annular step encircling a wafer support in a plasma processing chamber. The insert ring is surrounded by a shadow ring (unnumberd part).

5. Claims 1-2, 6, 9-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ma et al (US 20030106646).

Ma et al disclose an as insert ring (focus ring Fig 6a-304) of silicon (Paragraph 51) with an annular step encircling a wafer support in a plasma processing chamber. The insert ring is surrounded by a shadow ring (324).

6. Claims 1-2, 6, 9-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagaiwa et al (US 20020029745).

Nagaiwa et al disclose an insert ring (Focus ring Fig 2-12) of silicon (paragraph 45) with an annular step encircling a wafer support in a plasma-processing chamber. The insert ring is surrounded by a shadow ring (24 and 18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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8. **Claims 3-5, 7-8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al (US 6464794).**

Park et al disclose an insert ring (edge ring Fig 2-24) of silicon (Col 5 lines 42-45) with an annular step encircling a wafer support in a plasma-processing chamber.

Park et al do not explicitly disclose the height of the edge ring as in Fig 2-24 but disclose that in general the height is 3-6-4.5 mm (Col 8 lines 20-30). Further the height of the taller part could be increased by 2-4-3.0 mm (Col 10 lines 62-67). Park further teaches that the height is determined by process requirement as the focus ring height is known to affect the plasma orientation and the lift of the ring expected.

Therefore having a height of 3.5 mm of one part and of 1.5 mm of the other part would have been an obvious compromise for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/3/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues against the references cited. In response several rejections are removed. However rejections as above stand as new limitations are disclosed.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram N. Kackar whose telephone number is 571 272 1436. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 A.M to 5:P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on 571 272 1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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